

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR
PEACE & FREEDOM
PORTLAND BRANCH
NEWSLETTER



P. O. Box 1186
Portland, Oregon 97207

JANUARY 1972

Helen Grossman, Pres.
Sophia Loving, Editor

"It has long been obvious to anyone who has really studied our prisons and the human beings who go through them that the prison is punishment and retribution, and nothing BUT...If it is rehabilitation you want...keep people out of prison."

Charlotte Reese, Former Federal Parole Board Member

MEMBERSHIP MEETING - TUESDAY, JANUARY 18 - 7:45 PM

JANUARY 15 - 2:00 PM - National Antiwar Convention Report sponsored by Portland Peace Action Coalition and Student Mobilization Committee to End War in Vietnam - Central Library.

8:30 PM - 65th Birthday Celebration honoring one of Portland's indefatigable workers for Peace and Justice - MARTINA CURL - and Benefit for Angela Davis Defense Fund - Odd Fellows Hall, 1708 NE Alberta Street - Dancing, Games - Midnight Supper, \$2.00. R.S.V.P. Edna Smith - 665-4328. - (In lieu of birthday gifts, contributions to Angela Davis Defense Fund, P.O. Box 4471, Portland 97208.)

FEBRUARY 5 - ANGELA DAVIS DAY - Leafleting in afternoon at several locations. If you can help, contact GERRI PECK, 288-2497.
5:30 PM - Potluck Dinner, Westminster Presbyterian Church, 17th & Hancock NE.

ANGELA DAVIS - Angela Davis who has been held in California jails without bail for well over a year on a charge of aiding and abetting a crime comes to trial on January 31, 1972. During the National W.I.L.P.F. Convention at Marylhurst in July of 1971 a resolution was passed supporting Angela Davis in her contention that she is innocent and that there is insufficient evidence to hold her for being part of the events of August 7, 1970 at the Marin County Courthouse and that she is being persecuted as a political prisoner. - Recently she was transferred to an underground dungeon in the Palo Alto, Calif. Jail. Her 6' x 8' cell is unheated and has only a double bunk bed and a toilet. She is not allowed to wear shoes. She is alone and cannot see outside. - These conditions are generally used on hardened convicted criminals, and Angela Davis hasn't even had a trial! Her cell connects by an underground passage to a small courtroom, which would likely be used for mostly press and police. No adequate public trial is possible there.

SEND AIRMAIL LETTERS AND WIRES TO:

Sheriff James Geary, 2700 Grant Ave., Palo Alto, Calif. Protest cramped, cold, unheated dungeon. Demand decent accommodations.

Attorney General Evelle Younger, Dept. of Justice, Sacramento, Calif. Demand immediate reasonable bail and change of venue to San Francisco and an end to inhuman treatment.

A SHOT IN THE ARM - While it often seems that we are beating our heads against a stone wall, perhaps we can more truly be compared to the steady drip of water which eventually wears away the stone. Take the case of China. After the revolution in 1949 WILPF was a voice crying in the wilderness for the seating of China in the UN. Today the majority of the world's people, including President Nixon, have come to agree with us and the People's Republic of China has taken its rightful place in the assembly of nations. To achieve our current priorities may take some time, but "a journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step."

ALSO - While the resumption of massive bombing of North Vietnam (involving 200-350 of the total 350 U.S. bombers available) demands renewed anti-war activity, it also signals the failure of U.S. military efforts to dominate S.E. Asia. Due in large part to our efforts, the situation is much different today from the mid-sixties. The GI's in Vietnam are refusing to fight and the returned veterans are leading the opposition to the war. We have a Congress that has gone on record (the Mansfield Amendment) in favor of complete withdrawal by a set date. Now we must concentrate on getting Congress to implement this by cutting off funds for the war. We are beginning a major presidential election year - another avenue for obtaining commitments to ending U.S. military presence in S.E. Asia by a specific date.

Now is the time to pressure members of Congress to assume their responsibility in representing accurately the 73% of the American public who say they oppose continuing the war. Urge them to vote against any specific military appropriations that will continue the American presence in Indochina either directly through the use of U.S. ground troops or indirectly through U.S. air, naval, materiel, advisory or other support which perpetuates the myth that a military victory is possible.

THIS IS ONE OF THE WAYS WE ARE WINDING DOWN THE VIETNAM WAR - Tens of thousands of tiny electronic sensors have been dropped over the Ho Chi Minh Trail. When the sensors are activated by passing people, they transmit radio signals to a relay platform that flies overhead 24 hours a day. The information is usually relayed to the Air Force's Infiltration Surveillance Center in Nakhon Phanom, Thailand. In a matter of seconds after the sensors are activated, analysts can watch the movement of men, bicycles or trucks on a screen as they move down a trail. Strike orders are fed directly into computers aboard waiting bombers. The pilot need not ever see the target or the ground. As General Evans explained, "Using area type ordnance (antipersonnel and fragmentation bombs), excellent results have been attained with this blind-bombing method." I.T.T. (International Telephone and Telegraph) makes parts for this automated murder system.

- HELEN GROSSMAN

VIETNAMESE CHRISTMAS TREE - The account of Germaine Greer's defoliated Christmas tree as reported in our December newsletter was put to good use this Christmas season here in Portland. We made up and distributed 5,000 leaflets incorporating this story. The project included:

- (1) Four different occasions of leafleting, although only one (at the Civic Auditorium the night of "The Messiah") was a big effort;
- (2) The placing of stacks of leaflets on literature tables in 13 churches, plus such places as the YWCA and Council of Churches;
- (3) Enclosure with Christmas cards and letters by several members;
- (4) A news article in the Oregonian submitted by GRETCHEN KAFOURY and a Letter-to-the-Editor by SOPHIA LOVING, also in the Oregonian. In addition Sophia sent letters about the tree to 38 other newspapers and to members of Congress.

MARY BOLTON

FROM A TEMPORARY HOME IN BERKELEY, CALIF. JANET SENIOR WRITES:

"I have learned through a friend of UFWOC in the Community Pesticide Study Programs within the California State Dept. of Health that legislative action is urgently needed. - The story is that Rep. Poage of the U.S. House Agriculture Committee sponsored a pesticide Control Act which greatly weakens the Act of 1947. He had it assigned to his own Committee and invited only pesticide manufacturers to testify. Health people were not even informed. Reported favorably by the Committee, the bill passed the House, the members of which were under the impression that they were controlling pesticide use when in reality they were de-controlling it. - Please write Senators Packwood and Hatfield asking for extensive hearings to which representatives of public health and conservation groups are invited to testify, with the objective of amending the bill before it reaches the Senate floor for a vote."

TREASURER'S REPORT - JANUARY 1972

Operating Fund	\$ 466.00
Bail Fund	3,400.00

(Bail Fund Goal - \$5,000.00.)

LAURA CHAIVOE, Treasurer